



THE MYSORE GAZETTE.

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PART IV.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

His Highness the Maharaja's opening speech to the Representative Assembly, 5th October 1903.

Sir Donald Robertson, Dewan Sahib and Members of the Representative Assembly—

I have much pleasure that for the first time after my accession to power, I have this opportunity of meeting here the representatives of the leading raiyats, merchants and Local Bodies of my State. It would have pleased me to have done so last year, but on account of the virulence of plague, it was decided to postpone the meeting of this Assembly—a decision, I need scarcely say, taken with much reluctance and after much waiting to see if the disease would abate. Twenty-two years ago, almost to a day, this Assembly was, at the command of my revered father, inaugurated by Dewan Rangacharlu. The object was to make the views and measures of Government better known and appreciated by the people for whose benefit they were intended, and by bringing the members in immediate communication with the Government, to serve to remove from their minds any misapprehensions in regard to such views and actions and to convince them that the interests of the Government are identical with those of the people.

The sphere and functions of an Assembly like that of yours must necessarily have its limitations and it is obviously not in a position to accept any portion of the responsibility for the good Government of the State, which must exclusively remain with me. The former testimonies, I am glad to find, speak highly of the moderation, the intelligence and the practical good sense that have characterized your discussions in the past, and one of the conspicuous results of this assembly has been the consolidation of the sense of a common interest between the Government and the people.

If the deliberations of this assembly succeed in providing a ready means whereby my people can make their requirements, aspirations and grievances known, and in affording my Government an opportunity for stating what has been accomplished during the past year and what is intended in the next, and further, if these meetings enable us to understand each other better and thereby remove all possible grounds for misconception regarding the measures of Government, then I entertain no doubt that this yearly gathering will prove a valuable adjunct to the administration and will thereby promote the contentment and well-being of my subjects which are so dear to my heart. As long as this institution fulfils these aims and objects, you may rest assured, it will receive my hearty support and encouragement. I trust that the membership of this Assembly, which I understand, has already come to be regarded as a privilege, will by your moderation and wise counsel, receive enhanced value at your hands and the hands of your successors in the years to come.

And now Gentlemen, my Dewan Sir Krishna Murthy will place before you an account of my first year's administration, and will as usual, preside at your meetings. I commend your sense of duty in coming here during this time of the year, when unfortunately, in spite of all our efforts, plague has still a hold on this city. I hope that the arrangements made for your comfort and safety are satisfactory to you.